

and may necessitate a revision of our estimate of its flight-period, which on present evidence would seem to extend to the end of June if not later. (The worn females caught would presumably have already bred.) The allies of *interpuncta* usually last into August or September; does this indicate a second brood or a protracted emergence-period? Further investigation of the Erith Marshes colony is obviously desirable.

Stubbs & Falk (p. 191) point out that because so little material is at present available, the degree of variation in this hoverfly is not yet known. The 14 specimens before me vary only to a trivial extent, and scarcely at all in the critical character of the outer hinder corners of the pale abdominal markings; except that in one those on tergite 2 are less clearly drawn away from the edge at the corner than in the others, much as in *A. lunulata*; however, the markings of the other tergites are typical of *interpuncta*. There is good agreement throughout with Stubbs & Falk's figures. The yellow thoracic stripes are much wider in the females than in the males, in places as wide as and wider than the black stripes between them. In *A. lineata*, for instance, this is not clearly the case.

References

- Chandler, P. J. 1969. The Hoverflies of Kent. *Trans. Kent Field Club* 3(3): 190.
- Stubbs, A. E. 1981. *Anasimyia contracta* Torp & Claussen, 1980 and *A. interpuncta* (Harris 1776) (Diptera: Syrphidae) in Britain. *Proc. Trans. Br. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.* 14: 10-11, with figs.
- Stubbs, A. E. & Falk, S. J. 1983. *British Hoverflies*. 190 (figs.), 191, Pl. 12 figs. 8a, 8b. London.

THE PAINTED LADY: CYNTHIA CARDUI IN FEBRUARY 1985. — Whilst walking along a roadside path on the Berks/Hants border near Tadley, Hants on February 6th, a mild day between two cold spells, I observed flying in my direction a *C. cardui*. — P. G. SILVER, 11 Scott Close, Emmer Green, Reading, Berks.

PARADIARSIA GLAREOSA ESP. SSP. EDDA STAUD.: AUTUMNAL RUSTIC IN CARDIGANSHIRE. — A single specimen of this unusual variety of *P. glareosa* was taken in a Rothamsted light trap at Tregaron during the night of 31st August 1984. This variety is normally associated with Shetland although it is reported that forms approaching *edda* have recently been taken in Orkney (Heath & Emmet, 1979, *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*). The captured specimen is in fine condition, with a uniform, almost black ground colour and with the cross lines and stigmata clearly outlined in a pale buff. My thanks to Mr. David Carter (British Museum, Nat. Hist.) for confirming the identification. — I. J. TILLOTSON, Tyloed, Tregaron, Dyfed, SY25 6JF.